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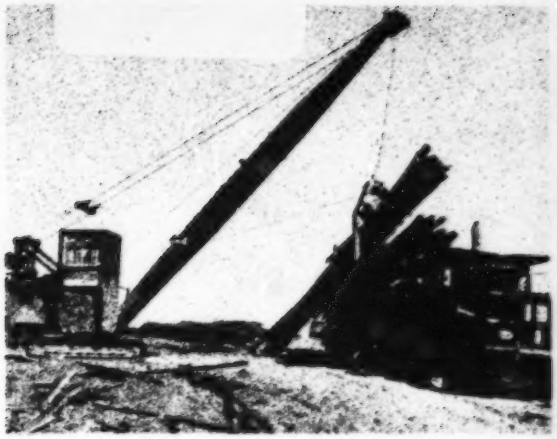

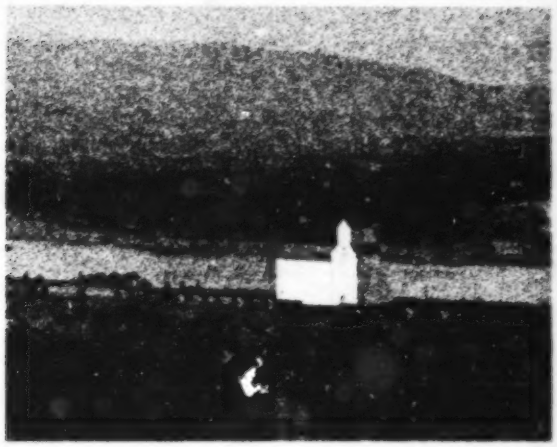

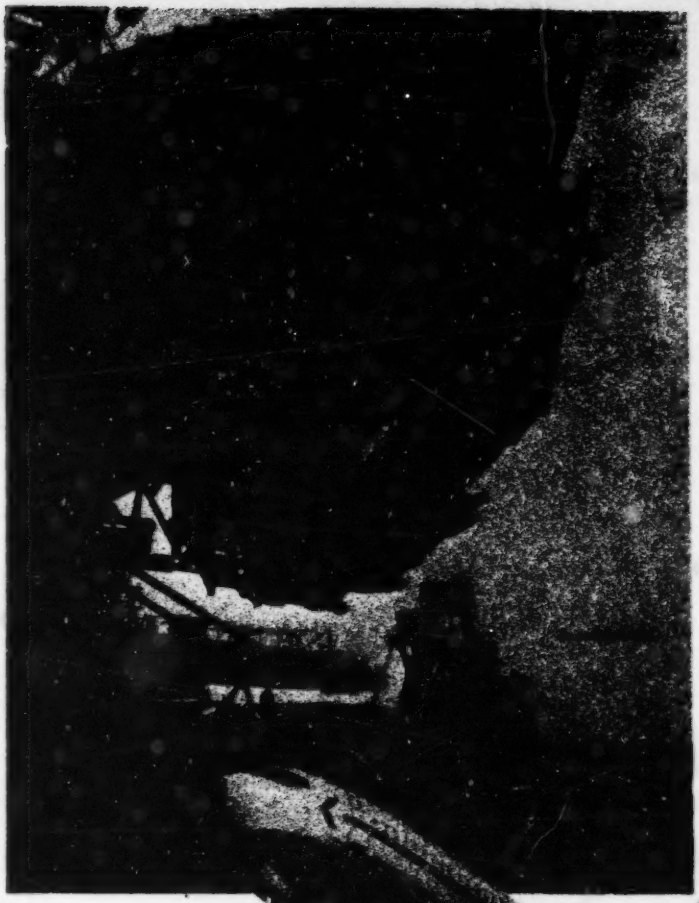

ANNUAL REPORT
1983/84

Alberta
NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

84- 3355 /

LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL

Alberta
TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS

Office of the Minister

Room 104 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 403/427-3162

May 14, 1984

To His Honour
Frank Lynch-Staunton
Lieutenant-Governor of the
Province of Alberta

Sir:

The undersigned has the honour to transmit herewith, the Twentieth Annual Report of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. J. Allen "Boomer" Adair
Minister Responsible for the
Northern Alberta Development Council

Alberta
NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2nd Floor, Provincial Building, 9621 - 96 Avenue, Postal Bag 900-14, Peace River, Alberta, Canada T0H 2X0 403/624-6274

May 14, 1984

Hon. J. A. "Boomer" Adair
Minister Responsible for the
Northern Alberta Development Council

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Respectfully submitted,

Norm A. Weiss, M.L.A.
Chairman

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STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Norm Weiss, M L A
Chairman,
Northern Alberta Development Council

It was a great honour to serve as Chairman of the Northern Alberta Development Council during 1983/84, for this past fiscal year marks the twentieth anniversary since the creation of the Northern Alberta Development Council and the tenth year since its major re-establishment in 1973.

Because of the significance of these important anniversaries, the Council convened a major progress review meeting involving current and past members of the Council. A special publication entitled "Ten Years Later" was prepared and released as a report of activities to the Provincial Government and the people of northern Alberta.

The Council's numerous public participation efforts on behalf of northerners continued during the year. Seven public meetings were held in McLennan, Elk Point, Swan Hills, Conklin, Gift Lake, Plamondon and Valleyview. The meetings resulted in the presentation of 173 briefs, all of which were actively followed up by the Council.

A major priorities review was undertaken during 1983/84, resulting in the approval of a revised statement on Goals for Northern Programs. The Council also presented an important, well documented position paper to the ECA Hearings on the Development of New Agricultural Land in Northwestern Alberta. Very well received Northern Community/Medical Student Interchanges were sponsored for the first time by the Council, and research and workshops focussing on the phenomenon of Early School Leavers in Northern Alberta resulted in a number of proposed remedial measures.

Numerous community and economic development projects and activities were also initiated during the year as the Council continued its work as a facilitator and catalyst on behalf of the region.

Prior to the end of the year, four new members were selected from the public nomination process for appointment to the Northern Alberta Development Council. Their fresh ideas will undoubtedly assist us greatly as we continue our efforts to enhance the development of Alberta's north.

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL 1983/84

NORM WEISS, MLA
CHAIRMAN
FT. McMURRAY

HON. AL "Boomer" ADAIR
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR
NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT
PEACE RIVER

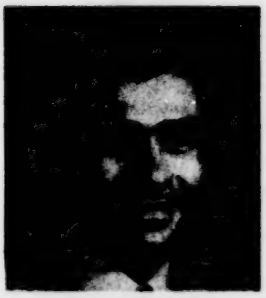
BARRY LAZORUK
VICE-CHAIRMAN
RYCROFT

DR. BOB ELLIOTT, MLA
BEAVERLODGE

PETER ERASMUS
McRAE

CHRIS JONES
McLENNAN

JOANNE MITCHELL
HIGH LEVEL

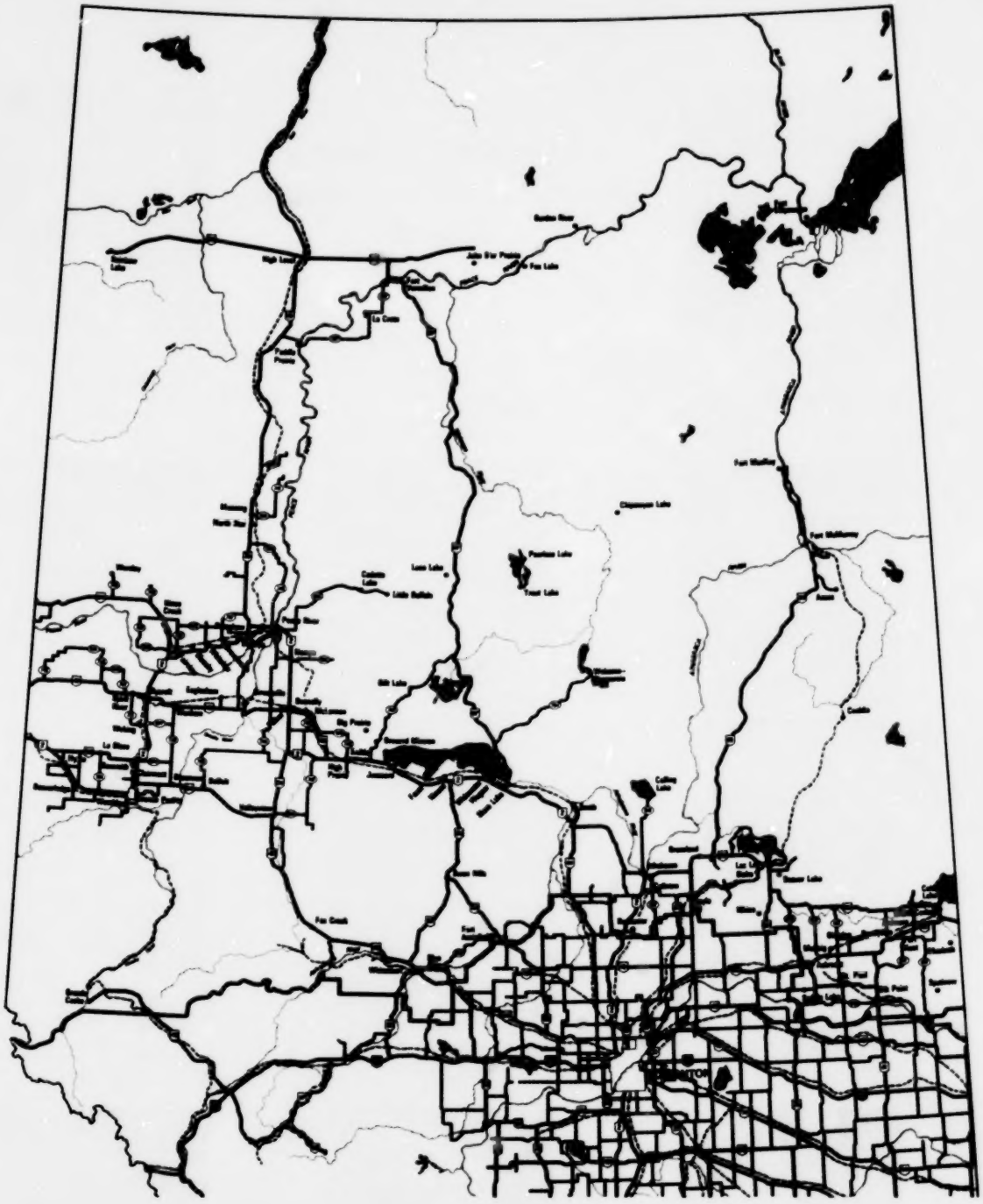


JOE MOLHO
SWAN HILLS

ROD TODD
COLD LAKE

DICK UPHAM
ASHMONT

VICTOR YOUNG
WHITECOURT



NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AREA

COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATION OVER 75 1981 CANADA CENSUS

PRIMARY HIGHWAY

SECONDARY ROAD

RAILWAY

PRODUCED BY THE ALBERTA BUREAU OF SURVEYING AND MAPPING © 1983

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The Northern Alberta Development Council was initially created in 1963 as a five member advisory body to the provincial government. It was enlarged in 1973 to a membership of ten, and currently consists of eight private citizens appointed on the basis of public nominations, and two elected Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Through its own Act, the Northern Alberta Development Council is charged with the responsibility to "investigate, monitor, evaluate, plan and promote practical measures to foster and advance general development in northern Alberta, and to advise the government thereon". The Act makes specific reference to social and economic development, the development of communities and service delivery, and the development of government services and programs.

The Council, at present, has a full-time MLA Chairman and reports to the Executive Council through the Minister of Tourism and Small Business, responsible for Northern Development.

The Council's primary role is to provide government with a northern point of view on a wide range of issues, supplementing and complementing the perspectives of northern MLAs. A major objective of Council since 1973 has been to increase the amount of public participation in the planning and design of delivery systems for various government services in northern Alberta.

The general purposes that Council wishes to promote are:

- to enhance economic and educational opportunities within northern Alberta in order to encourage young people to stay
- to enhance the viability of traditional northern small town and rural life
- to support the desires and aspirations of all residents in northern Alberta for a fair share in the wealth and potential of the area
- to support the desires of various cultural and ethnic groups within northern Alberta for maintenance of their distinctive heritage

Through regularly scheduled public meetings and sponsorship of major conferences and seminars, the Council serves as a forum to which residents can express their ideas and concerns regarding development of the north. In addition to receiving briefs at public meetings, the Council can initiate research into particular

opportunities or needs, and often pursues, on behalf of northern residents, efforts toward the development of new programs or co-ordination of the existing service delivery.

The information service provided through the response to briefs received from the public results in the initiation of most Council activities. Sixty percent of the briefs presented to the Northern Alberta Development Council since 1973 have resulted in positive responses.

Issues considered by the Northern Alberta Development Council during the year under review were many, including agricultural land development, small business financing, heavy oil proposals, tourism, housing, education, infrastructure systems, local hiring practices, health services, medical recruitment and local government concerns.

In September and December of 1983, the Council held two sessions to review progress since its reorganization in 1973 and determine current and future priorities. A major position paper was presented to the ECA Hearings in Peace River on November 22, 1983, outlining the Council's thoughts on the development of new agricultural land in northwestern Alberta. Community/medical student interchanges were sponsored in Calgary and Edmonton in late November to assist in attracting physicians to northern Alberta. In February of 1984, three workshops were convened in Grimshaw, Peace River and Lac La Biche to review recommendations to ameliorate the problem of early school leavers in northern school systems.

The Northern Alberta Development Council serves as a facilitator and catalyst, assisting the line departments of government responsible for the implementation of changes and service improvements. The Council's public participation role over the years has provided an enhanced two-way flow of information, resulting in marked improvements for all northern Albertans.

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETINGS

During 1983/84, the Northern Alberta Development Council held seven public meetings: at McLennan in April, Elk Point in June, Swan Hills in August, Conklin in September, Gift Lake in October, Plamondon in November and Valleyview in February. Five other regular monthly meetings were held in Peace River (3), Edmonton and Whitecourt, along with three workshops, a major priorities review and a number of special activities.

One hundred and seventy-three briefs were received from groups and individuals in attendance at the public meetings. Each brief submitted was reviewed by the Council to determine a course of action and forwarded to various departments and agencies of government for consideration and comment. The departmental responses were then discussed by the Council, and a decision made as to whether or not the department's position and/or proposed action was appropriate. If the departmental response was felt to be inappropriate, the Council directed the Northern Development Branch to further clarify the issue through Branch-directed research, or to undertake discussions with the responsible officials in order to achieve the necessary action. At times, co-ordination of the efforts of a number of departments of government was required. Brief originators were advised of the progress made on each of the ideas or concerns expressed in their submissions.

The results achieved by the Council varied greatly from brief to brief. In several instances the concerns raised were either totally or partially resolved. In some cases, the Council and Branch are continuing to work towards a practical solution which is acceptable to all involved. The current status of any of the briefs submitted to Council is available from the Northern Development Branch, Bag 900-14, Peace River, Alberta T0H 2X0.

BRIEFS

During the year 16 briefs were received from Janvier, Conklin, Fort Chipewyan and Fort McMurray in the northeast region; 48 from Wabasca, Desmarais, Faust, Gift Lake, Grouard, High Prairie, Joussard, Kinuso, Loon Lake, Nampa, Peerless Lake, Slave Lake, Swan Hills, Trout Lake and Whitecourt in the central region; 44 from Athabasca, Bonnyville, Boyle, Caslan, Cold Lake, Elk Point, Frog Lake, Glendon, Grand Centre, Hoselaw, Kikino, Lac La Biche, Plamondon, Spedden, St. Paul and Wandering River in the southeast region; 14 from Berwyn, Fairview, High Level, La Crete, Manning and Peace River in the northwest region; 45 from Beaverlodge, Falher, Fox Creek, Girouxville, Grande Cache, Grande Prairie, McLennan, Sexsmith, Spirit River, Sunset House, Tangent, Valleyview, Wanham and Woking in the southwest region; and 6 from Edmonton and other points outside the Northern Alberta Development Council boundary.

RESEARCH AND CO-ORDINATION

Many of the issues brought to the attention of the Northern Alberta Development Council required intensive background work and follow-up activities. As a result, the Council initiated a number of research projects and efforts directed at co-ordination or modification of the delivery of government services in various areas.

Major activities in 1983/84 included:

- a meeting with the Motor Transport Board to clarify various concerns raised in briefs from trucking operators in northern Alberta

- a review of local hiring and local purchasing policy and practices as they affect northern businesses

- a meeting with the Alberta Gaming Commissioner to discuss regulations regarding community non-profit organizations

- discussions with officials from Alberta Environment regarding lake enhancement and algae control in northern Alberta

- a meeting with the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife to discuss a number of issues related to fish and wildlife policy, agricultural land disposition and the Cold Lake Fish Hatchery

- completion of socio-economic impact assessments regarding the extension of Highway #58 through Wood Buffalo Park and Highway #754 to Chipewyan Lakes

- a follow-up meeting with the Minister of Labour and project implementation work with Alberta Labour, Alberta Education and Northland School Division regarding the Council's review of fire protection and prevention in northern Alberta

- a meeting with the Minister of Housing to discuss provision of housing in northern communities, and related concerns

- an information exchange meeting with the Chairman of the Alberta Water Resources Commission

- an extensive tour of the new facilities at AVC Lac La Biche

- a detailed meeting with the Co-ordinator of the Slave River Hydro Project to receive a briefing on the proposed development

- a major follow-up meeting with the board members of the Alberta Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Commission to review progress on recommendations from the Council-sponsored Alcoholism Strategies Workshop

- a meeting with the Director of the Industry Development Branch to receive an update on departmental activities, venture capital and trade missions

- a discussion with the Director of the Metis Development Branch regarding various briefs presented to the Council

- a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources, regarding recommendations from the Council's position paper on Development of New Agricultural Land in Northwestern Alberta, future forestry development and various public land issues

- discussions with Alberta Power officials regarding various issues brought forward in briefs

- release of the revised Goals for Northern Programs document, a ten year Review of Activities and handbooks on Interagency Co-ordination and Medical Opportunities in Northern Alberta

- support for community assessment projects in Wabasca/Desmarais, Lac La Biche and Elk Point

- support for agricultural research in the Bonnyville and High Level areas and the development of a wildlife ranch in Kikino

- support for a marina development assessment in Joussard, a medivac services evaluation in Fort McMurray, a tourism development study in Fort Chipewyan and a fishing lodge development at Peerless Lake

- initiation of a regional/sectoral review of northern economic development opportunities

- initiation of discussions with Travel Alberta regarding a proposed Tourism North Conference

- completion of major background analysis and co-ordination activities involving land banking, Integrated Resource Plans, remote community judicial services, the Electric Energy Marketing Act, welfare alternatives and remote economic development

- input into a number of interdepartmental committees in such areas as transportation, water and sewer delivery, native employment programming, resource development, housing, tourism, agricultural research, second channel television and infrastructure provision in northern communities

REVIEW OF PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES

In September and December of 1983 the Northern Alberta Development Council conducted a two-part review of its current priorities and past activities on behalf of northern citizens.

The September 21-23 session was held at Christina Lake and involved detailed discussions of Council's present and future priorities. Topics covered included the current fiscal climate, economic development opportunities, educational needs, infrastructure provision, transportation, manpower requirements, native employment alternatives and health and social services. Various internal short-term goals were established and a revised framework statement, Goals for Northern Programs, was released for public comment.

The revised Goals document outlined four broad areas with a number of specific subheadings. Under Goals for Economic Development, the Council stated its objectives relative to resource development (agriculture, renewable resources, non-renewable resources), diversification (small business, secondary industry, tourism), planning and co-ordination (regional planning, project planning, co-ordination) and economic development for people (good corporate citizenship, local purchasing, needs of native people).

Local decision-making in Improvement Districts and remote communities, and community consultation, are the focus of Goals for Development of Communities. Goal area three on Development of Education outlines objectives for elementary and secondary schools, regional colleges, university programs, vocational training centres and on-the-job training. Goals for Development of Government Services concentrate on community services (transportation, water and sewer, housing, communications, law enforcement, fire protection, recreation and culture, social assistance), health services (treatment, prevention, alcoholism and drug abuse) and communications between government and people (Northern Alberta Development Council, general service delivery, decentralization).

On December 6 and 7, 1983, a meeting was convened of all past members of the Northern Alberta Development Council since its reorganization in 1973. The major result of the meeting was the release of a document entitled "Ten Years Later". The document was compiled as a report to the Alberta government and to the citizens of northern Alberta outlining the activities of the Northern Alberta Development Council from April 1, 1973 to March 31, 1983.

The report outlined the history of the Council, its membership, the 55 public meetings held during the time period, the 1,300 issues dealt with, and the current status of all briefs submitted to the Council. Also summarized were the 12 position papers released by the Council and over 200 major individual research and co-ordination efforts undertaken to aid development in the north. The 11 Council workshops and conferences covering economic development, transportation, agriculture, intergovernmental co-ordination, health needs, community services, research, adult education and training, and alcoholism were documented; as well as programming efforts under the Alberta North Agreements and such things as the Northern Alberta Development Council Student Bursary Program.

The Ten Years Later and Goals for Programs documents are available from the Northern Development Branch in Peace River.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AGRICULTURAL LAND IN NORTHWESTERN ALBERTA

On November 22, 1983, the Chairman of the Northern Alberta Development Council presented a detailed Council position paper on the Development of New Agricultural Land in Northwestern Alberta to the Environment Council of Alberta Hearings on Maintaining and Expanding the Agricultural Land Base. The Council position paper was based on extensive commissioned research and wide-ranging discussions of the topic.

Because of its importance to the region, the Northern Alberta Development Council has devoted a great deal of time to agriculture over the years. A major discussion paper and an Agriculture North Conference involving the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture were the focus of Council activities in 1978. Since then, numerous research and co-ordination efforts have addressed topics such as grain handling, drainage, agricultural research, nutritive processing assistance, part-time farming, farm fuel rebates, crop assistance, market roads, grazing reserves and the meat industry study. In early 1983, the Council held major review meetings with the Minister of Agriculture and the Associate Minister of Public Lands & Wildlife.

In the many discussions, and in some 50 agriculturally related briefs to the Council, a common topic has been the disposition of public lands for agricultural

purposes. The ECA Hearing process provided the Northern Alberta Development Council with a further opportunity to address this identified need for continued and enhanced agricultural land development in the north. The Council felt very strongly, however, that its position paper had to be based on an accurate assessment of the views of those affected. Therefore, a major research project based on some 1,600 interviews in four selected regions was commissioned in early 1983. The researchers interviewed farmers, potential farmers, agricultural and forest industry representatives and municipal officials located in, or near, the potential land expansion areas of northwestern Alberta. Cost-benefit analyses were also carried out.

The research results as presented in the position paper, outlined the need and potential for developing a minimum of 154,000 acres of new agricultural land annually for the next 20 years in the interview areas around Valleyview, High Level, Fort Vermilion/La Crete and Manning. Also addressed in the document were a breakdown of farmer demand, income characteristics of the region, the importance of forestry, impact on surrounding communities, the cost to government and issues such as environmental protection.

In its recommendations, the Northern Alberta Development Council made comment on:

- the need for detailed land inventorying
- the importance of maintaining a forest base
- the need to continue an overall land development target of 250,000 acres per year
- the desirability of continued "fringe development"
- the need to complete and speed up various Integrated Resource Plans
- the importance of "block development" in specified areas
- the need for a faster disposal process and defined appeal procedures
- the relative cost of posted land

The position paper concluded with a call for accelerated agricultural land development in the north, within the context of sound resource management planning.

A printed copy of the position paper is available from the Northern Development Branch.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

Northern Alberta has long had a problem attracting and retaining a sufficient number of skilled professionals. It is a problem that the Northern Alberta Development Council has addressed often, extensively reviewing such issues as labour force turnover, highly qualified manpower projections and adult education and training. In a major study and workshop on Health Needs in Northern Alberta, completed in 1980, personnel needs and recruitment strategies were among the many issues addressed.

In its public meetings across northern Alberta since the 1980 study, the Council was becoming increasingly aware that an adequate supply of health care professionals is a vital necessity to many northern communities. A number of communities were presenting specific briefs requesting assistance in the recruitment of health personnel. Nurses and dentists were mentioned, but medical doctors were the most often required - either to fill an urgent shortage or to relieve existing physician workloads. Because of what appeared to be chronic understaffing in this area, the Northern Alberta Development Council decided in the year under review to undertake special measures to recruit medical practitioners to northern Alberta.

The initial activities involved research into factors affecting the supply of physicians in the north. This was followed up with a review of various strategies and programs used by provinces across Canada. After much discussion, the Council decided the best approach was to sponsor interchange meetings between interested northern Alberta communities, and medical students and interns at the Faculties of Medicine in Edmonton and Calgary.

The Interchanges were held on November 28, 1983 in Calgary and November 29, 1983 in Edmonton. The objectives were to show that northern Alberta was an excellent place to live and work, and that modern medical facilities and resources were available to physicians. The Council prepared a Prospectus on Opportunities for Medical Practitioners in Northern Alberta which outlined the north, its communities, the need for some 20-30 physicians and specialists, and a comparison of income and costs which showed a potential average higher gross return of some 20%.

Twenty-one northern communities accepted the Council's invitation to attend the Interchanges, which focussed on an evening social with community displays and promotional activities. Extensive background work by the Council and a wide invitation list resulted in 83 medical students, interns and residents attending the Calgary meeting, and 94 registering in Edmonton.

All of the participating communities were very pleased with the results of the Interchanges. Almost every community came away with the names of prospective

physicians who were interested in further discussions and orientation visits. Since the Interchanges, Council follow-up work and further discussions and contact with the participating communities has shown a number of confirmed commitments resulting from the meetings.

In a feed-back session during the Interchanges, the Council and community delegates also discussed a number of recruiting ideas worthy of consideration — community medical needs committees, support for locum tenens and internships in the north, loans to new doctors, housing subsidies, bursary assistance, and the British Columbia remote community incentive plan.

Printed copies of the Prospectus and an Interchange Report are available from the Northern Development Branch.

EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

At the beginning of 1983/84, the Northern Alberta Development Council initiated a major assessment of the phenomenon of early school leavers in northern Alberta. A commissioned research report was completed in cooperation with Alberta Education and Northland School Division involving extensive documentation and interviews.

A draft of the study report was presented to some 200 northern educators, school trustees and community representatives at a series of Council-sponsored workshops in February of 1984. The purpose of the workshops held in Grimshaw, Peace River and Lac La Biche was to review the study contents and discuss possible recommendations for consideration by the Northern Alberta Development Council.

Representation at the Grimshaw and Lac La Biche workshops included the school divisions of Grande Prairie, Fairview, East Smoky, High Prairie, Peace River, Spirit River, Whitecourt, Swan Hills, Fort Vermilion, Falher, Athabasca, Fort McMurray, Medley, Lac La Biche, St. Paul, Northland and Lakeland; Alberta Education and Advanced Education officials, community delegates and members of the Northern Alberta Development Council. A separate workshop was held in Peace River involving the trustees of the newly elected board of Northland School Division.

After the workshops, the Council reviewed in detail the proceedings and the consultants' final report. A series of Council recommendations under the following topics were then forwarded for consideration by the provincial government:

- awareness of the early school leaver problem
- student-teacher relationships

- recognizing the value of and need for education
- relevance of education
- student involvement
- community/school involvement
- the student-at-risk
- schooling after incomplete grade school
- busing and boarding
- teacher turnover rates
- teacher preparation
- teaching system
- one school with grades 1 to 12

A printed workshop report is available from the Northern Development Branch.

STUDENT BURSARY PROGRAM

Created in 1974, the Northern Alberta Development Council Student Bursary Program is designed to encourage young people to obtain technical training or professional qualifications that are in high demand in northern areas of the province.

Students assisted through the program are obligated to work in northern Alberta, preferably in remote and isolated locations, for at least one year for each year of bursary support received.

The Bursary Program is administered by the Students Finance Board. A selection committee, made up of four members of the Northern Alberta Development Council and one representative each from the Metis Association of Alberta, the Students Finance Board and Alberta Advanced Education and Manpower, is responsible for the establishment of guidelines and selection of candidates for bursary support.

On the basis of criteria including need, northern experience and special circumstances, the Selection Committee granted bursary assistance in 1983/84 to 134 applicants for a total of $535,000. The present bursary rates are up to $3,500 for single students and up to $5,600 per academic year for married students. Since the inception of the program 1,200 bursaries have been awarded to students at a total expenditure of $3.7 million. Bursaries have been awarded in many areas including health care, education, social services, agriculture, law, business-related studies and engineering. Most of the returning graduates have remained in the north to contribute to the growing and diverse economy of the region.

NEW COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

In late 1983, through public advertisements in all northern newspapers, nominations were solicited from northern community groups and organizations for nominees to replace retiring public members of the Council.

In March, 1984, the Provincial Cabinet, through the Minister Responsible for Northern Development, the Hon. J. A. Adair, appointed four new members to the Northern Alberta Development Council. The membership for 1984/85 includes:

Norm Weiss, MLA, Fort McMurray, Chairman
Dick Upham, Ashmont, Vice-Chairman
Verna Block, Spirit River
Dr. Bob Elliott, MLA, Beaverlodge
Ernie Howse, Caslan
Cec Jardine, Valleyview
Joanne Mitchell, High Level
Joe Molho, Swan Hills
Vince Rice, Kinuso
Rod Todd, Cold Lake

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

The purpose of the Northern Development Branch of Alberta Tourism and Small Business is to participate in developing and maintaining a socio-economic environment in northern Alberta which gives maximum opportunity for the inhabitants of the area to grow and prosper.

In achieving its purpose, the Branch provides all the administrative and technical support activities required by the Northern Alberta Development Council, and attempts to implement a flexible strategy of achieving specific socio-economic improvements in northern Alberta.

The Branch seeks to advance the development of human and natural resources in northern Alberta, as well as to aid in community development goals such as local decision making and planning. It delves into a wide variety of issues as a result of briefs received by the Northern Alberta Development Council, e.g., agriculture, resource development, manpower training, community infrastructure, education, communications services, housing and transportation.

The **Research and Analysis Section** of the Branch provides the review and planning function for northern Alberta socio-economic improvements. Basic research is performed and background and position papers prepared in support of the Council in its role as an advisory body to government. Examples of major projects undertaken by the section on behalf of the Council during the fiscal year included: review papers on wildlife policy, local purchasing, goals assessment, agricultural land development, early school leavers, and welfare alternatives; maintenance of the Northern Research Registry; community assessment studies in Wabasca, Lac La Biche and Elk Point; an Inter-agency Handbook; a Prospectus on Medical Opportunities; and studies in the areas of medivac services, highway extensions, alcoholism, grey wooded soils, tourism development, elderly care, northern census data, land banking and remote community judicial services.

The purpose of the **Program Co-ordination Section** is to facilitate and assist in the co-ordination of activities of various line departments and agencies to achieve maximum opportunities for socio-economic development in northern Alberta. Within this context, the Section had a major responsibility to complete cash flow implementation of the 1978-83 Alberta North Subsidiary Agreement. Negotiations with the federal government for renewal of the Agreement have to date been unsuccessful. In the area of northern co-ordination efforts on behalf of the Council, extensive staff time was spent on interdepartmental liaison activities involving water and sewer delivery, remote community economic development, television services, transportation needs,

resource development plans, commercial fishing, electrification services, fire prevention, social employment programs, vocational training, northern school divisions and planning for the Annual Conference of Northern Ministers.

The **Council Administration Section** provides technical and logistical support to the Chairman's office in Fort McMurray and to individual Council members for the monthly meetings. During 1983/84 seven public meetings, five closed meetings and a major priorities review were organized. Detailed follow-up to the Student Bursary Program, and assistance in the public nomination process and appointment of four new Council members were also undertaken. One hundred and seventy-three briefs were received by Council during the fiscal year, and background documentation, interdepartmental liaison activities and draft responses were undertaken in each case by the Section staff.

A significant amount of the Branch's time during the year under review was related to preparation and follow-up to the Community/Medical Student Interchanges held in Calgary and Edmonton and the Early School Leavers Workshop held in Grimshaw, Lac La Biche and Peace River.

Other major Branch follow-up activities arising from the briefs and/or Council initiated requests involved: High Level Housing office, 911 Emergency Call System, extension of Highway #686, Manning Senior Citizen services, access to Willmore Wilderness, Kinuso water supply, Conklin and Janvier community concerns, Cold Lake waterfront improvement, Northern Wild Rice Growers Association, barge service to Fort Chipewyan, Tangent agricultural development, ESSO heavy oil project, Wabasca flood damage, Swan Hills recreation lease, Swan Hills hazardous waste plant proposal, Whitecourt timber quotas, school bursaries, physician recruitment, Gift Lake community concerns, renewable resource development, satellite television, Metis Betterment Act Review, Village of Plamondon status, Janvier airport lighting, BQR program revisions, Lac La Biche women's shelter, La Crete Health Centre, Fort McMurray Paramedical services, Whitecourt Seedling Nursery, Kikino Wildlife Ranch, Sturgeon Lake watershed, Sexsmith dental recruitment, Loon Lake community concerns, Fort Chipewyan tourism development.

In its work as a co-ordinator and facilitator and, particularly, as a supplier of technical support to the Northern Alberta Development Council, the Branch continued to maintain a vital communications link between northern people and government.